

Are You Ready for October 3, 2012 GHSWT



BEFORE...

Take a few minutes and respond on the
front of the paper provided with...

5 “things” you already know about the
GHSWT and/or the process of writing



How is My Writing Judged?

- **IDEAS: 40%**
 - Controlling idea (thesis)
 - Supporting details
 - Persuasive purpose
 - Complete paper
- **Organization: 20%**
 - Introduction, body, and conclusion
 - Complete paragraphs
 - Addresses audience
 - Transitions
- **Style: 20%**
 - Word choice
 - Voice
 - Sentence style
- **Conventions: 20%**
 - Spelling
 - Subject-verb agreement
 - Punctuation
 - Capitalization



What Do I Do First?



- **READ** the topic to understand the intended **purpose**, **audience**, and **tone**
 - If it says to write a **LETTER**, you write in the format of a letter
 - If it says to write a **SPEECH**, you write in the format of a speech
- **BRAINSTORM** ideas and organization **BEFORE** you start writing; jot your ideas down

How Do I Write a Rough Draft?

- *Paragraph One: Introduction*

- **Hook** the reader's interest with a **question**, **quotation**, **fact**, or **short story**
- Establish a **clear direction** for your paper with a thesis statement: what you **believe**, **think**, or **want to argue**

- *Paragraph Two: Body Paragraph*

- Start with a **transitional topic sentence**: tells the reader what you will discuss
- **Develop your idea** with **examples**, **facts**, and **details**

The Rough Draft

- *Paragraph Three: Body Paragraph*
 - **Start** with a transitional topic sentence
 - **Develop your idea** with **examples**, **facts**, and **details**
- *Paragraph Four: Final Body Paragraph*
 - **Start** with a transitional topic sentence
 - **Address** what the **opposing viewpoint** may say; tell the **other side of the argument**; explain **why this argument is misinformed** (counter argument)
 - **Close** with a “**clincher**” sentence
- *Paragraph Five: Conclusion*
 - **Restate** your **thesis statement** (from 1st paragraph)
 - Use a **call to action** (emotional appeal to inspire the reader to do something!) or **tell us what we should now believe** as a result of your argument

Sample Introduction

I woke up late. I almost had a car accident on the way to school, and there was no parking left in the student parking lot. As I sprinted up the steps, I heard the bell ring, and one thing comes to mind: tardy. Mrs. Johnson approaches me, jots down my name, and directs me to the office where I will be assigned ISS* for being late to school. The school disciplined me for simply having a rough morning, and that is not fair. The tardy rule should be changed because it universally punishes every student regardless of the excuse.

*How is this essay starting?

Body Paragraph 1

To begin with, students had no input in directly creating a tardy rule for the school. I believe in rules, but they can be much more successful if participants have a stake in creating them. In my experience as a Customer Service Representative at Best Buy, the employees helped to devise the Code of Conduct, which includes absences and tardiness. If our school let the students have input into the discipline policies, such as the tardy rule, perhaps more students would obey the rules.

Body Paragraph 2

Another reason that this rule should be changed is because the administrators refuse to accept any excuses. If there is an accident on the road that prevents me from getting to school on time, that is not my fault, and I should not be held responsible for issues that are out of my control. In the real world of jobs, I can call my employer to tell him that I will be late, and there is no punishment. Since school is supposed to prepare us for the real world, shouldn't the same policy apply? I understand that some students will create silly excuses for their tardiness, but administrators should address these excuses and students as individual cases instead of using the same punishment for everyone.

Body Paragraph 3

Finally, the punishment for the crime simply does not fit. School officials generally say that every discipline problem must have a consequence, and I agree. However, it does not make sense that a student who misses class should also miss more class through ISS or OSS if he or she is tardy. If our goal as a school is to improve student achievement, we need all students in class all the time, and the tardy policy's consequence completely contradicts the school's goal. Instead of being stuck in ISS, the administration should consider using after-school measures to discipline tardy students.

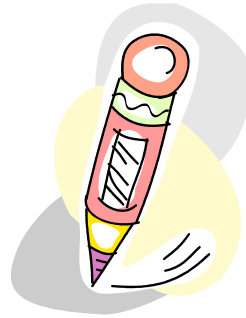
*What is the counter argument?

Conclusion

The tardy rule at our school must be changed because the students cannot be held to a standard that doesn't make sense. Since we did not create the policy and cannot provide excuses or alternate punishments, the student body must take a stand against the rule. I encourage all students to discuss this issue with parents so they understand our situation. We also need to write letters to the administrators in order for our message to be heard. With hard work, unity, and effective communication, we can and will make this rule change!

Writing Tip #1

- Purpose, Audience, and Tone
 - Know **WHY** you're writing
 - Know **WHO** is supposed to read it
 - Know **HOW** you are supposed to sound



Writing Tip #2

- Avoid homonym errors such as
 - they're, their, there
 - principal, principle
 - to, too, two
 - do, due
 - whether, weather



Writing Tip #3

- Things to avoid...

- contractions (**can't, don't, you're**)
- using “**etc.**” or the ‘**&**’ symbol
- “**you**” statements (You should...)
- **a lot** (use *often, a great deal, many*)
- slang or text message abbreviations/language
 - **Y** **wanna** **for real**
 - **U** **ikr** **lol**
- using a conjunction to begin a sentence (**And** grades would go up. **So** kids would pass.)
- using words such as “**that**” and “**even**” **multiple times** in a sentence



Writing Tip #4

- Vary word choice in sentences. Don't start all sentences the same way.
 - I think the tardy policy is wrong. I think it should be changed. I think we need a new rule created by the students and administration.
 - I think the tardy policy should be changed because it is wrong. Instead of following this rule, the students and administration should create a new policy.

*Which of the two follows this tip?

Writing Tip #5

- Only use big words if you know what they mean.
 - The tardy policy is criminalized because of unfortunate events.
 - I think the tardy policy is wrong because it criminalizes students for unfortunate events.



Writing Tip #6

- Clearly start each sentence with a capital letter
- Clearly end each sentence with punctuation
 - i think the tardy policy is wrong
 - I think the tardy policy is wrong.



Writing Tip #7



To Do:

- Proofread your paper before turning it in
 - **First paragraph:** hook, clear direction, thesis statement
 - **Body paragraphs:** transition topic sentences, develop the idea w/ examples, facts, details
 - **Final body paragraph:** transition topic sentence, address opposing viewpoint, clincher sentence
 - **Conclusion:** restated thesis and call to action or tell us what we should now believe
 - Check for **grammar mistakes!**

Remember

- You only have 1 page (front and back) of lined paper on which to write your final draft.
- You will, however, have blank paper to work on outlines and a rough draft.



Sample Writing Topic

Writing Situation: The hairstyles, clothes, and jewelry of students in today's schools reflect current fads and fashions that are sometimes controversial. Are dress codes necessary in today's schools, or should students be allowed to dress as they wish?

Directions for Writing: Write a letter to your principal in which you defend your position for or against dress codes in schools.

*What should you note about this sample topic before you even begin?

How Should It Begin?

Dear Mr. Shaw,

Does your supervisor tell you what to wear each day to work? I know teachers have a professional dress code, but all staff members still have the right to select clothing that suits their personal tastes. A mandatory dress code for students at Hillgrove would eliminate such a choice. This policy should be rejected by the teachers, administration, and students because it takes away the students' individuality and the right to freedom of expression.

What If the Writing Topic Instructed to Write a Speech to the School Board?

Good evening members of the School Board. My name is Scott Johnson, and I am a junior at Hillgrove High School. I would like to begin by asking a simple question. Does a supervisor tell the School Board what to wear each day to work? I know members have a professional dress code, but all Cobb employees still have the right to select clothing that suits their personal tastes. A mandatory dress code for students at Hillgrove would eliminate such a choice. This policy should be rejected by the School Board, teachers, administration, and students because it takes away the students' individuality and the right to freedom of expression.

What Topics Would Be In The Body Paragraphs?

- Individuality
 - Different clothes represent different people
 - Personal example(s)
- Freedom of Expression
 - What does the Bill of Rights say?
 - What would the opposing side say?



How Should the Letter End?



Hillgrove's dress code policy is clearly wrong because it limits the ability of students to express themselves. While the intentions of this rule are nice, the negative impact of the policy would outweigh any positive results. The principal is the leader of the school, and you should open a forum to students and the public to hear their opinions on this subject.

Sincerely,
Scott Johnson

Your Turn

- Look at the **two** sample writing topics on the sheet provided.
- Choose **one** to write about in our remaining class time today.
- Begin by **brainstorming** your ideas or making an **outline**.
- Ask me **questions** as I walk around to help.
- Remember to **follow the advice** on each of the **handouts!*****



